

The continued status quo in regard to SFAR 94 will economically destroy the three airports under the "temporary" restriction surrounding Washington, DC. Washington Executive/ Hyde Field is a privately owned, public-use facility dependent upon airport revenues for its existence. Presently, there are only 50 aircraft based there. This, compared to the more than one-hundred based there prior to the 9/11/01 attack does not reflect the real effect upon the economics of running an airport.

Aircraft must fly often and fly locally to permit fuel sales, the largest revenue source for most general aviation airports. The aircraft based there do little of either. Additionally, there are no transient aircraft permitted into the facility other than those from the other two airports trapped in the same TFR. The result? No income from those aircraft that normally visited the airport while the owners/operators/passengers visited the District of Columbia.

College Park Airport, open since 1909 when the Wright Brothers taught the War Department to fly, is in no better condition. Incomes at that airport are at approximately 15% of pre-9/11 levels. No facility can sustain these incredible losses of income and survive in the long run.

The proposal is to extend SFAR 94, unchanged for an additional two years. This cannot be tolerated. It will cause the loss of two valuable facilities the State of Maryland cannot absorb. Already, there is not an airport in the state that has a surplus of hangar space to house the demand for them. Losing two airports represents the loss of 6 percent of the state's total airport infrastructure. This will cause massive overcrowding, loss of general aviation assets and a denegation of the state's already shaken economy.

Any decision to continue the SFAR 94 must be accompanied with mandatory efforts to develop alternative methods that permit greater access to the three affected airports using existing, affordable technology to permit security organizations positive identification of pilots and their lack of their being coerced into a terrorist act.

Anything less is unacceptable action on the part of the federal government.